

As you know, the number of Compensation Board funded assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys in your office is based upon Compensation Board staffing standards. Compensation Board staffing standards are comprised of only two data elements: felon defendants and sentencing events. Some Commonwealth's Attorneys have noticed a significant disparity in their jurisdiction between the number of felon defendants and the number of sentencing events. As a result, last year at the request of then VACA President Bob Bushnell, Compensation Board staff prepared an analysis of sentencing events per felon by jurisdiction. While there will never be a 1:1 ratio of sentencing events to felons for a number of valid reasons, the general consensus concerning Commonwealth's Attorneys appeared to be that, with some exceptions, at least 50% of felon defendants would be convicted of a guideline offense resulting in a sentencing event. With that understanding, Bob Bushnell asked us to simply determine the ratio of sentencing events to felons. He provided you with the information last year; this year, we have updated the spreadsheet and placed it on our website at <http://www.scb.virginia.gov/docs/ratio.pdf>.

The definitions of "felon defendant" and "sentencing event" are included in the Compensation Board staffing standards methodology at <http://www.scb.virginia.gov/docs/fy07staffstd320.pdf>.

Questions regarding the number of felon defendants should be first directed to your Circuit Court Clerk. If additional information is required, you may wish to contact Cyril Miller at (804- 786-6455; [cmiller@courts.state.va.us](mailto:cmiller@courts.state.va.us)) at the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Questions regarding the number of sentencing events reported to the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission should be first directed to your Circuit Court Clerk. If additional information is necessary, you may wish to contact Meredith Farrar-Owens (804-371-7626; [mfowens@vcsc.state.va.us](mailto:mfowens@vcsc.state.va.us)) with the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission.